



SR2035

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Illinois State Senator William Delgado has represented the citizens of the State of Illinois and the families of the 2nd Senate District since 2006; and

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WHEREAS, Senator William Delgado joined the Illinois Senate in December of 2006 as the unanimous choice to fill the vacancy created by then-Senator Miguel del Valle when he became the Clerk for the City Of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Senator William Delgado began his career of elected service to his community when he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1998, representing the families of the 3rd Legislative District; before being elected to the House of Representatives, he worked as a Hispanic liaison for former Attorney General Roland Burris and as the Latino liaison during the 1994 campaign of gubernatorial candidate Dawn Clark Netsch; and

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WHEREAS, In the Senate, Senator William Delgado drew on his background in community service, including his tenure as a Youth and Family Counselor and his work at the Department of Children and Family Services when he served as Chairman of the Senate Public Health Committee; he subsequently brought that knowledge to his leadership as the Chairman of the Senate

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1 Education Committee and as a member of the Senate Human  
2 Services Committee; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator William Delgado's chairmanship of the  
4 Senate Education Committee established him as one of the  
5 Senate's strongest advocates for education; understanding the  
6 importance that a quality education can have in a child's life,  
7 he supported initiatives to eliminate race-based standards in  
8 schools, restrict disciplinary practices that unnecessarily  
9 burden students, and ensure that students are being tested in  
10 ways that are accepted by Illinois public universities; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator William Delgado has a rich history of  
12 supporting initiatives to improve the quality of our schools,  
13 including legislation to address the Chicago teacher shortage  
14 by expanding the provisions of the Grow Your Own Teacher  
15 program, which offers grants to cover tuition for students  
16 seeking their bachelor's degrees to become teachers in  
17 hard-to-staff schools; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator William Delgado passed groundbreaking  
19 legislation that requires all public schools to include  
20 studying the events surrounding the forceful removal and  
21 illegal deportation of almost two million Mexican-American  
22 United States citizens during the Great Depression, beginning  
23 in 1929 and ending in the mid-1940s called "Mexican

1 Repatriation", noting that the incident is often omitted from  
2 textbooks; and

3 WHEREAS, When funding for The Children's Place, a pre-k  
4 educational facility for children and families suffering from  
5 severe illness and poverty located in Humboldt Park, came under  
6 threat, Senator William Delgado rallied his colleagues to a  
7 press conference to announce their support for the facility and  
8 stand in opposition to the funding cuts; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator William Delgado has been instrumental in  
10 passing a number of measures to protect the rights and freedoms  
11 of LGBTQ individuals, including his support for marriage  
12 equality and the initiative to allow individuals to provide  
13 their own instructions for the appearance, name, and gender  
14 pronouns of their remains regardless of whether they've had a  
15 court-ordered name change; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator William Delgado spearheaded The Puerto  
17 Rico Project, which sought to help Puerto Rican drug addicts  
18 that were being sent to Chicago without any plan in place for  
19 their rehabilitation; he connected with local rehab facilities  
20 and community members to take them in and worked with the  
21 government of Puerto Rico to prevent the problem from becoming  
22 worse; and

1           WHEREAS, Working with the Illinois Department of Public  
2 Health, Senator William Delgado fought to make the Mobile  
3 Asthma Pilot program a reality in Illinois; the focus of this  
4 program is to provide children with preventive care that will  
5 allow them to avoid asthma before an attack becomes serious;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, To protect expectant mothers and their unborn  
8 children, Senator William Delgado chaired a series of hearings  
9 concerning prenatal and neonatal congenital toxoplasmosis, a  
10 preventable and treatable disease if tested for and caught  
11 early in pregnancy; he has continued to fight to get these  
12 tests covered by health insurers; and

13           WHEREAS, Despite his many responsibilities, Senator  
14 Delgado remains active in his community through events such as  
15 his annual Back-To-School and Family Health Fair, his work with  
16 the community group Blocks Together, and his participation in  
17 both the annual Walk Now for Autism event at Soldier Field and  
18 the Chicago Healthy Living Challenge; and

19           WHEREAS, Senator William Delgado has recently been honored  
20 for his work in the community by the Illinois Environmental  
21 Council and the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois; he was  
22 also named a Legislative Champion for Individuals with  
23 Developmental Disabilities; and

1           WHEREAS, Senator William Delgado holds certificates in  
2 social work and community organizing from the John Marshall Law  
3 School; he is also a graduate of Northeastern University, where  
4 he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice with  
5 a minor in sociology; and

6           WHEREAS, Senator William Delgado will return to Chicago,  
7 where he lives with his wife, Iris; he will be missed by all in  
8 this chamber; therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Senator  
11 William Delgado for his dedicated service to the people of  
12 Illinois and honor him with this resolution; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to William Delgado with our best wishes for his  
15 future endeavors.